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COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
Intergovernmental Forum on Forests
Second session
Geneva, 24 August-4 September 1998
Agenda items 2 (a), 3 (a), 3 (b), 3 (c) and 3 (d)

PROMOTING AND FACILITATING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROPOSALS FOR ACTION OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON FORESTS AND REVIEWING, MONITORING AND REPORTING ON PROGRESS IN THE MANAGEMENT, CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF ALL TYPES OF FORESTS: PROMOTING AND FACILITATING IMPLEMENTATION

MATTERS LEFT PENDING AND OTHER ISSUES ARISING FROM THE PROGRAMME ELEMENTS OF THE IPF PROCESS: MATTERS LEFT PENDING ON THE NEED FOR FINANCIAL RESOURCES; MATTERS LEFT PENDING ON TRADE AND ENVIRONMENT; MATTERS LEFT PENDING ON THE TRANSFER OF ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND TECHNOLOGIES TO SUPPORT SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT; OTHER ISSUES ARISING FROM THE PROGRAMME ELEMENTS OF THE IPF PROCESS NEEDING FURTHER CLARIFICATION

Letter dated 28 August 1998 from the Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Indonesia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On behalf of the Group of 77 and China, I have the honour to present the paper entitled "Needs and Requirements of Developing Countries with Low Forest Cover".

The Group would be appreciative if you could contribute the paper as an official document of the IFF at this second substantive session, under relevant items, such as: 2 (a), 3 (a), 3 (b), 3 (c) and 3 (d).

(Signed) Arizal EFFENDI

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20 August 1998

Input from the Group of 77 and China to the Second Substantive Session of the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests
Geneva, 24 August-4 September 1998

Needs and Requirements of Developing Countries with Low Forest Cover

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Introduction

Low forest cover accounts for the largest proportion of the Earth's land area which is the habitat and source of livelihood for a large proportion of its population. Low forest cover is due to natural ecological conditions as well as to human activities. Low forest cover is a problem of global dimension and joint action of the international community is needed to respond to the needs and requirements of the developing countries with low forest cover. In this regard, the efforts being undertaken by low and middle income developing LFCCs for the sustainable forest management, afforestation and reforestation should be supported by the international community through, inter alia, the provision of financial, technological and technical resources.

Sustained economic growth, social development and poverty eradication are priorities of LFC developing countries and are essential for the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests. It must be emphasized that trade and relevant aspects of international economic relations have serious impact on the ability of LFC developing countries to expand and rehabilitate their forest cover.

Low forest cover affects sustainable development through its interrelationships with important economic and social problems such as poverty, poor health and nutrition, lack of food security, shelter, water resources, fuel, fodder, grazing provisions for livestock, and those arising from refugees, migration, displacement of persons and demographic dynamics.

The developing countries with low forest cover are themselves actively engaged in the arid land and forest rehabilitation and have already invested significant amount of resources in these activities which yielded successful results. Recent success stories in several developing countries are prominent examples of contributions that such projects can make to rural development and

This has implications for the production of goods and services at the global level. The scarcity of forest goods and services is a global problem, and the international assistance for the improvement of forest security in terms of meeting the specific needs and requirements of developing countries with low forest cover should be a priority in order to achieve sustainable development at all levels. In this connection, the creation of a conducive environment for the economic and social development as well as the environmental protection in the developing countries with low forest cover is imperative.

A variety of factors contribute to low forest cover, including low original endowment, historical deforestation, and current pressures on land use. But the relative importance of these vary with both country and region within a country and, also, between countries, which require urgent action at national and international levels.

Low forest cover and efforts to expand the forest cover are closely interrelated with other global environmental concerns such as desertification, biological diversity, carbon sequestration. Consequently, actions for addressing low forest cover greatly contribute to international efforts for conserving biological diversity, climate change and combating desertification.

Factors contributing to low forest cover

Almost all developing countries with LFC are located in the arid regions of the world, which are climatically unsuited to support forest cover. In these countries, what forests there are may be restricted to pockets of more favorable growing conditions, such as fog-bound mountain tops or oasis areas with high water tables. Many low forest cover countries (LFCCs) were deforested due to exploitation before the twentieth century; the fate of their forests depended upon a combination of factors related to climate, location, political control and colonialism, as well as on demands for agricultural lands and forest products. Population trends, institutional controls, shipbuilding industry, war and instability are but some of the other factors responsible for the decline of forests in the past.

A few LFCCs once had a substantial endowment of original forest that has been depleted more recently by exploitation and demands for conversion to other land uses. This is particularly true of countries in which the total land area per capita is relatively restricted so that the possibilities of expanding onto non-forested land are reduced.

II. Current trends

Due to their successful efforts, most of the LFCCs record deforestation rates of zero. with an average loss of natural forest of less than 1 per cent. FAO does not record forest clearance in LFCCs whose area of forest cover falls below the minimum threshold. The pressures on remaining forests, however. may be quite intense, especially in countries with low forest cover per capita. Some LFCCs have actually been increasing their forest cover in recent years through reforestation and afforestation programmes. LFCCs have experienced an average net increase of 0.3 per cent in natural and plantation forest area during the 1980-1990 period, compared with a net forest loss worldwide of between 0.1 and 0.2 per cent. Increasingly, the importance of forest management in LFCCs has been recognized; a number of LFCCs have developed national forestry action

programmes and most have ratified the Conventions on Biological Diversity, Combating Desertification, and Climate Change.

Forests provide a wide range of goods and services. In LFCCs, a high proportion of such goods and services derive from other wooded land, farmland or plantation. LFCCs with low forest cover as a percentage of their total land area are generally net importers of timber or timber products. Also, LFCCs may export small quantities of speciality timbers from species. Wood is the major energy source in many countries, including LFCCs. In addition to roundwood and fuelwood, forests and woodlands contribute very significantly to local and national economies through non-wood forest products (NWFPs). These are particularly important to the people living in and around the forests. NWFPs may be highly significant commercial resources in local economies or may be export commodities from LFCCs. In LFCCs, forest can be as important sources of foodstuffs, both for local consumption and for export. They also play important roles in protecting the genetic resources of important crop species.

Wood resources and other forest products are of special importance to the national economy and livelihood of a large proportion of the population in LFCCs. Based on the specificities of forests in LFCCs, the dependence of communities and forest dwellers include a variety of forests' goods and services including fuelwood and charcoal, honey, gum, food, medicine, leaves, grazing provisions for livestock, and timber. Important uses of trees include fuelwood, hut construction, livestock enclosures and fodder. The products and services provided by trees to other sectors of LFCCs' economies, such as water-resource maintenance, edible products, and industry are especially important.

Unique forests

Unique types of forests are an extremely important part of natural heritage which deserve particular attention of the international community. Unique forest ecosystems are especially important for biodiversity conservation. They may be areas with significant numbers of unique (that is endemic) species, or they may be areas with unique communities or associations of non-endemic species. Unique types of forests not only contribute to the national but also to the global biological diversity. Species richness and endemism of unique forests is also significant. Climate and isolation are two of the factors determining biodiversity in LFCCs. Furthermore, the unique types of forests are vital for the economic, social and cultural life of dependent communities, specially the forest dwellers, in the developing LFCCs.

Protected areas

The development of comprehensive protected areas networks in LFCCs is an important step towards the protection and maintenance of biological diversity, as well as of natural and associated cultural resources. This requires legal or other effective means supported by, inter alia, adequate financial resources, technology, know how, and necessary data. The purposes for which sites are managed differ greatly, and may range from scientific research and tourism and recreation to the sustainable use of resources from natural ecosystems.

III. Information requirements

The principal issue under consideration for LFCCs is the availability of forest-derived goods and services per person, nationally and in global terms. The information on the scarcity of such goods and services is needed at the global level and its availability at the national and local levels is important as a basis for decision-making. For that purpose, the strengthening of the information systems, as well as the creation of new systems, where necessary, must be assisted and supported. National monitoring programmes are increasingly being implemented in LFCCs to improve the accuracy of data and the frequency with which they are recorded. In this connection, information gathered needs to be matched to the requirements for policy making and other information purposes.

In many cases, new information is needed for developing policies that are appropriate to the management of scarce forest resources, analyzing the marketers for forest goods and services, determining institutional responsibilities and roles, and planning forest management.

IV. Approaches and policy options

The security of supply of forest goods and services is a matter of particular importance in different ways at local, national and global levels. Mechanisms to ensure the long-term security of supply will require appropriate policies, institutions, information flows, as well as the necessary resources. National Action Programmes constitute a good basis for addressing the needs and requirements of the developing countries with low forest cover. Elaboration of National Programme of Action which contains, among other elements, information exchange, capacity building, adaptive approaches, and identifying priorities. The process, considering the diversity of situations among LFCCs, may accommodates possible options in order to ensure the long-term economic development and securing forest goods and services in developing LFCCs.

Policies and activities for rehabilitation and the restoration of forests in developing LFCCs create great opportunities for sustainable development in all economic, social and environmental dimensions. These opportunities include, inter alia, diversification of national economy, food security, rural development, creation of employment, eradication of poverty, particularly women's poverty, empowerment of women, preservation of unique types of forests, carbon sequestration, preservation of wildlife habitat, and reversing the trend towards soil erosion, land degradation, desertification process, loss of biodiversity, degradation of existing forests, degradation of forest watershed, preservation of water quality and quantity, water resource pollution, etc... In this regard, in addition to all other forms of support, the international instruments, such as the conventions on climate change, biodiversity and particularly, the convention to combat desertification, should play a great role in both establishing national action plans and coordinating international support for undertaking such actions. Water resource is also a prerequisite for the expansion of forest cover in the developing LFCCs.

Civil society, including , local communities, NGOs and private sector also have an important role to play in the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests, including the unique types of forests. Mechanisms for the involvement of all stakeholders will facilitate the process of choosing and implementing policies for reforestation and afforestation.

V. Summary of IPF Report on low forest cover

The Intergovernmental Panel on Forests (IPF) discussed the special needs and requirements of LFCCs as one of the programme elements. The IPF pointed out that "the restricted area of forests in countries with low forest cover results in reduced capacity for the production of timber and for the provision of goods and services, including the protection of watersheds, the supply of fuelwood, the maintenance of biological diversity and endemic species, and recreation and amenity." "National protective measures and international support" for many of the forest types in those countries which are "distinctive or even rare" was also emphasized. The Panel recognized the seriousness of problems faced by LFCCs in satisfying their needs for forest goods and services, and that, "owing to economic factors and circumstances, the impact of the problem in developing countries is much more severe than in developed countries." Furthermore, the Panel recognized that "the needs of low-income and middle-income countries with low forest cover are likely to differ from those of high-income countries, and consequently, different sets of action to address those needs will apply."

While emphasizing the need for the actions under this programme element with actions under CBD, UNFCCC, and CCD, the Panel noted that national forest programmes (NFPs) provide a good vehicle for addressing the needs and requirements of LFC. Furthermore, the necessity of additional information as a basis for national forest programmes was highlighted.

The importance of international cooperation, particularly through financial and technical assistance and the transfer of environmentally sound technology, as well as through the establishment of appropriate research and information networks, private investments, ODA and for the management, conservation and sustainable development of forests in LFCCs, was emphasized.

The IPF also made a number of proposals for action. In this regard, the Panel "called upon FAO, in consultation with relevant organizations and countries, as appropriate, to develop a workable and precise definition of low forest cover." The Panel urged the countries with low forest cover to develop national forest programmes; to plan and manage forest plantations, where appropriate, to enhance production and provision of goods and services; to involve indigenous people, local communities, forest dwellers and forest owners; to fully analyze and take into account the related social, economic and environmental implications and costs and benefits, when considering non-wood substitutes or imports of forest products; to establish and expand networks of protected areas, buffer zones and ecological corridors; to embark on capacity-building programmes at various levels; to take full advantage of the wealth of traditional knowledge; and, to develop adequate research and information systems.

The Panel also urged the developed countries to assist developing LFCCs to expand their forest cover through "the provision of financial resources and transfer of appropriate technology, as well as through the exchange of information and access to technical know-how and knowledge." Furthermore, countries and international organizations are urged to improve the efficiency of and procedures for international cooperation to support the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests in developing countries with low forest cover and the donor countries and multilateral and international organizations to facilitate and assist these countries in

building capacity for data gathering and analysis so as to enable them to monitor their forest resources.

VI. Proposals for action

Request the IFF to identify necessary actions and arrangements to address, as a matter of priority , the specific needs and requirements of developing countries with low forest cover, recognizing that forest rehabilitation and restoration efforts in those countries greatly contribute to achieving the objectives of the existing environmental conventions and agreements including the Convention to Combat Desertification, the Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on Biological Diversity and other related environmental conventions. Furthermore, the protection and conservation of unique types of forests as a valuable environmental heritage needs special care;

Request also the Secretariat of IFF to prepare a report on the implementation of the outcome of IPF on the needs and requirements of developing countries with low forest cover, together with supplementary action-oriented and practical recommendations on this issue and to submit to the third session of IFF;

Considering the fact that developing LFCCs often depend, to a large extent, on other countries to satisfy their needs for forest goods and services, including for timber, wood and fibre, IFF should also discuss and further elaborate this extremely important element when addressing the relevant issues including, inter alia, trade and development. In this regard, the serious impact of trade and relevant aspects of international economic relations on the efforts of LFC developing countries to expand and rehabilitate their forest cover must be discussed. Furthermore, there is a need, among others, to identify which forest products (wood and non-wood, commercial and non-commercial) and forest services are scarce in the forested-poor countries and how to improve and sustain their supply at national and global terms;

Further requests the Secretariat of IFF to hold, with the assistance of concerned and interested member states and international experts, seminars, briefings and presentations on the particular conditions of the developing LFCCs;

Calls upon FAO to expedite the process of developing a comprehensive definition for low forest cover while taking fully into account the particular needs and requirements of developing LFCCs;

Calls upon the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to adopt, within its four focal areas of activity, particular attention to the projects on the rehabilitation and restoration of forests in the developing countries with low forest cover;

Bearing in mind the contribution of forest programmes in the developing LFCCs to all environmental conventions, calls upon those conventions to take necessary coordination measures for incorporating the special needs and requirements of developing LFCCs in their policies and programmes;

Urges the developed countries, in fulfilling their obligations in accordance with the existing agreements, to give priority to the special needs of developing LFCCs. In this context, also urges the developed countries, including those with low forest cover but with limited land and unsuitable climatic conditions, to fulfil their commitments contained in the final outcome of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests in terms of the provision of new and additional financial resources and transfer of technology, as well as the exchange of information and access to technical know-how and knowledge. In this direction, urges the developed countries to reverse the trend towards declining ODA both in percentage and absolute terms;

Urges the developed countries and international organizations, including the international financial institutions, to improve the efficiency of and procedures for international cooperation to support, by all existing and other possible means, including the provision of loan and investment guarantees, matching funds and other forms of support, as well as the promotion of private sector investments, the policies and programmes of the developing countries with low forest cover for afforestation, reforestation and combating deforestation and desertification, as well as the conservation of unique types of forests;

Urges the donor countries and multilateral and international organizations to assist the developing LFCCs in strengthening capacities to enable them to improve their institutional frameworks, as well as their scientific and technical capabilities, information collection and analysis, and research and development for the purpose of reforestation and afforestation in accordance with their national priorities and needs;

Requests the developing countries with LFC to adopt reforestation and afforestation as a priority in their efforts for sustainable development of their forests; to make efforts to mobilize their national financial resources; to promote regional cooperation, in a spirit of solidarity and partnership, in programmes and activities for the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests, with due attention to the unique types of forests; undertake efforts to make their existing national institutions more effective and efficient; to promote south-south cooperation, inter alia, for the exchange of information on appropriate technology, knowledge, know-how and practices between and among them; to develop comprehensive national strategies for sustainable forest management; and, to involve all stakeholders;

Calls upon the United Nations system, including funds and programmes, Commission on Sustainable Development, as well as all other relevant organizations and bodies to address, in their relevant policies and programmes, the needs and requirements of developing countries with low forest cover, bearing in mind that low forest cover is an economic, social and environmental problem and that also it is interlinked and interrelated with other environmental problems of global dimension facing the international and national communities.

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Introduction

1. In accordance with the schedule of work of the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests as endorsed by the Commission on Sustainable Development and the Economic and Social Council, two types of discussions took place during the second session of the Forum:

(a) The following programme elements were subjected to substantive discussions:

I.a. Promoting and facilitating implementation

II.b. Matters left pending on trade and environment

II.c. Matters left pending on the transfer of environmentally sound technologies to support sustainable forest management

II.e. Forest-related work of international and regional organizations

Parts of the present report, of the Forum on its second session, covering these programme elements will be reviewed, updated and, when necessary, further negotiated during the third and fourth sessions of the Forum.

(b) The following programme elements were subjected only to background discussions:

I.b. Monitoring progress in implementation

II.a. Matters left pending on the need for financial resources

II.d. Other issues arising from the programme elements of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests (IPF) process needing further clarification

III. International arrangements and mechanisms to promote the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests

Accordingly, parts of this report covering these programme elements represent Co-Chairmen's summaries of discussion, which were not negotiated and are intended to facilitate substantive discussions during the third session of the Forum and provide guidance to the United Nations Secretariat for the preparation of documentation.

2. The Forum reiterated the understanding, reached at its first session, that all categories of the programme of work included in the Forum's mandate are open for discussion until the fourth session of the Forum (E/CN.17/IFF/1997/4 and Corr.1, para. 9).

3. The Forum expressed its appreciation to the organizers of the Six-country (Finland, Germany, Honduras, Indonesia, Uganda and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) Initiative which had made an important contribution to fostering progress in the implementation of the proposals for action adopted by the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests (IPF) as well as to the deliberations of the Forum, particularly on programme element I.a. The report of this International Expert Consultation, held in Baden-Baden, Germany, from 29 June to 3 July 1998, is entitled "Putting the IPF Proposals for Action into Practice" (see E/CN.17/IFF/1998/12).

4. The Forum reiterated the provisions of paragraph 12 of the report of its first session and welcomed the following initiatives which are expected to provide a valuable expert input to its future deliberations:

(a) The non-governmental organizations/Costa Rica initiative on programme element II.d (i): underlying causes of deforestation and forest degradation, which is to include the organization of consultation processes at the regional level, participation of indigenous

people organizations, elaboration of case studies and organization of a Global Workshop to be held in San José, Costa Rica, 18–22 January 1999;

(b) The initiative of the Government of Australia for the development of an in-depth study on forest conservation and protected areas to provide general recommendations on forest conservation and protected areas principles and practices, as well as identify various policy options applicable to a range of circumstances in various countries and regions;

(c) International Experts Meeting on Protected Forest Areas sponsored by the Governments of Brazil and the United States of America, to be held, in San Juan, Puerto Rico, 15–19 March 1999;

(d) International Expert Consultation on Research and Information Systems in Forestry, sponsored by the Governments of Indonesia and Austria, assisted by the Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), the International Union of Forestry Research Organizations (IUFRO) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), to be held in Ort Gmunden, Austria, 4–11 September 1998;

(e) The initiative of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to organize, in cooperation with other interested countries and international organizations, an international meeting on the "Special Needs and Requirements of the Developing Countries with Low Forest Cover";

(f) International Expert Meeting on the Role of Planted Forests sponsored by the Governments of Chile, Denmark and Portugal, to take place in Santiago, Chile, 22–26 February 1999;

(g) A "Study on the Global Outlook for Plantations" sponsored by the Governments of Australia, Brazil, Chile, Indonesia, New Zealand, South Africa, the United Kingdom and FAO;

(h) The initiative of the Government of Brazil to organize, in cooperation with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) and the Forum secretariat, a Seminar on Practical Trade-Related Aspects of Conservation, Sustainable Management and Sustainable Development of All Types of Forests (Geneva, 23–25 February 1999);

(i) The initiative of the Governments of Costa Rica and Canada on category III which will be carried out through a series of expert meetings and regional consultations to take place in 1999 and 2000.

5. The Forum expressed its appreciation to Governments, international organizations and non-governmental organizations that had organized various side events and presentations during the session which provided for an in-depth consideration of a number of important issues on the Forum's work programme and enriched its deliberations.

6. The Forum expressed its appreciation to the Forum secretariat as well as to organizations members of the informal, high-level Inter-Agency Task Force on Forests for their important work and contributions in support of its deliberations. In particular, the Forum noted with appreciation that advance texts of all of the reports had been made available to the participants two months in advance of the commencement of the second session. Nevertheless, the Forum underscored the importance of timely issuance of all of the reports in all official languages of the United Nations well in advance of the sessions, so that they could be studied in the capitals and by technical experts, as appropriate.

7. The Forum expressed its appreciation to those Governments and organizations that had made generous voluntary contributions in support of the work of the Forum and of its secretariat. However, bearing in mind the fact that the work of the secretariat solely depended on extrabudgetary resources, and having considered information on the current state of contributions, the Forum appealed to all interested Governments and organizations to give urgent consideration to making additional voluntary contributions in order to enable the secretariat to ensure high-quality preparations for future sessions.

I. Promoting and facilitating the implementation of the proposals for action of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests and reviewing, monitoring and reporting on progress in the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests (category I)

A. Promoting and facilitating implementation (programme element I.a)

Preliminary conclusions

1. The Forum welcomed the commitment, expressed by Governments, international organizations and other partners, to the implementation of all the Forum's proposals for action and noted with appreciation the many activities at the national level initiated by countries, groups of countries and international organizations. It noted the added attention given to the social and environmental services provided by forests as well as the challenges to address these issues. It emphasized the need for the effective involvement of relevant interested parties, as well as the improvement of institutional arrangements and appropriate ways and means of communication.

2. The Forum underscored the need for implementation of strategies in terms of investment, mobilization of domestic and international resources and — in the case of developing countries, with special attention to least developed countries and developing countries with low forest cover — appropriate financial mechanisms and/or measures including support through official development assistance (ODA).

3. The Forum considered national forest programmes, as defined by IPF, to be a viable framework for addressing forest sector issues, including implementation of IPF's proposals for action in a holistic, comprehensive and multisectoral manner. It took note of the national case studies prepared under the Six-country Initiative of Finland, Germany, Honduras, Indonesia, Uganda and the United Kingdom, as well as of the Baden-Baden workshop and its results. This initiative was considered an important contribution to the assessment of IPF's proposals for action at the national level, and for supporting implementation work at national and subnational levels. The Initiative had recognized the diversity of national conditions and interested parties in assessing the relevance and prioritization of the proposals at the national level, and had also produced a useful Practitioners Guide, which should be revised to facilitate assessment exercises. In order to enhance the implementation of the proposals for action adopted by IPF, the Forum identified the need for effective follow-up and long-term commitment at all levels.

4. The Forum noted that the IPF's proposals for action were numerous and complex and covered a wide range of important issues. The Forum recognized that sustainable forest management was a long-term process and goal and countries would not, within a limited time-frame, be able to show substantial progress in capacity-building, policy development,

planning processes and creation of enabling and supporting infrastructure. The Forum underlined the need for sustained efforts in implementing IPF's proposals.

5. The Forum recognized that IPF implementation by developing countries with low forest cover merited special attention. It called on the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), as the lead agency for this programme element, to expedite the development of a definition of low forest cover as contained in IPF's proposals for action. It invited the Global Environment Facility (GEF) as well as the relevant environmental conventions, including the Convention on Biological Diversity,[1] the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[2] and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa,[3] and international financing institutions to look into and reflect on the special needs of developing countries with low forest cover, and called upon the informal, high-level Inter-Agency Task Force on Forests to coordinate its work in supporting these countries.

6. The Forum expressed support for the work carried out by the informal, high-level Inter-Agency Task Force on Forests. It noted that the Task Force had been and continued to be an effective means of support of the IPF/Forum process and of informal inter-agency coordination on forests. In future, the work of the Task Force should be strengthened and further developed.

7. The Forum took note of the continuing monitoring of the effects of airborne pollutants on forests within member countries of the International Cooperative Programme on Forests (ICP Forests), as well as the establishment of new protocols dealing with nitrogen, heavy metals and persistent pollutants under the Geneva Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution,[4] as well as the beginning of regional cooperation on a monitoring network on acid rain among countries in Eastern Asia. It noted with appreciation the offer by some countries to extend their cooperation to interested countries not presently participating in international networks.

8. The Forum also took note of recent regional and international initiatives that are supportive of implementation of the IPF proposals for action, including the strengthening of the Sub-Network of Protected Areas of the Amazon, agreed by the Ministers of Environment of the Parties to the Amazon Cooperation Treaty, in March 1998; recent developments within the framework of the Central American Convention on Forests; the regional workshops on IPF implementation held in Indonesia in February 1998, in Senegal in April 1998 and in Chile in June 1998, under the auspices of the FAO Regional Forestry Commissions for Asia and the Pacific, Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean; the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe held in Portugal in July 1998; and the G-8 Forest Action Program endorsed by G-8 Heads of State in May 1998 in England (the Group of Eight, or G-8, comprises the United States of America, Japan, Germany, France, Italy, the United Kingdom, Canada and the Russian Federation).

Important elements for the implementation of IPF's proposals for action

9. The Forum agreed that the following are particularly important for the implementation of IPF's proposals for action:

(a) [Provision, taking into consideration the relevant chapters of Agenda 21[5] and paragraph 10 of the Non-legally Binding Authoritative Statement of Principles for a Global Consensus on the Management, Conservation and Sustainable Development of All Types of Forests (Forest Principles),[6] by the international donor community, international organizations and international financial institutions of new and additional resources,

including through innovative mechanisms and/or measures] to mobilize finance, technical assistance and transfer of environmentally sound technology at the international and domestic levels, as well as through better use of existing mechanisms and measures, to support national forest programmes in developing countries, and countries with economies in transition, in particular countries with low forest cover and with fragile forest ecosystems;

(b) Promotion, where appropriate, of an integrated approach by countries through their national forest programmes as defined by IPF, and in collaboration with international organizations, to the implementation of the IPF proposals for action and forest-related work as set out under the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;

(c) Creation and/or strengthening, by countries and international organizations, of initiatives, approaches and partnerships, which could include partnership agreements, to encourage long-term political commitment; relevant, effective, sustained and reliable donor support; and participation by the private sector and major groups; as well as recognition of the special role of official development assistance (ODA) in meeting the needs of developing countries, in particular least developed countries and countries with low forest cover;

(d) A systematic assessment, by all countries, of IPF's proposals for action and planning for their implementation in the context of countries' own national processes aimed at sustainable forest management;

(e) Implementation by countries of the IPF's proposals for action in the context of their national forest programmes/national policy framework in a coordinated manner and with the participation of all interested parties. Clear objectives and criteria should help promote effective implementation of sustainable forest management. The policy framework should be kept under review in order to continue to embody capabilities for intersectoral planning, coordination and implementation, and adequate resource allocation;

(f) Establishment, by each country, of a focal point to guide and coordinate the implementation and assessment process of the IPF's proposals for action, including the participation of all relevant interested parties;

(g) Further assistance by the international community to developing countries and countries with economies in transition in implementing the IPF's proposals for action as needed. National forest programmes could be used as a framework for channelling development assistance for implementation. Such support is particularly needed for capacity-building, and for creating participatory mechanisms and innovative financing arrangements.

B. Monitoring progress in implementation (programme element I.b)

Co-Chairmen's summary of discussion

1. The Forum recognized that any data collected by countries to monitor progress should primarily serve national needs. Thus, consideration may be given to integrating monitoring, assessment and reporting activities into national forest programmes.

2. Monitoring, data collection, assessment and reporting are costly endeavours and require enhanced international cooperation and national capacity-building in all countries, particularly developing countries.

3. The Forum noted that there are various aspects to data collection, monitoring, assessment and reporting. One aspect relates to progress in implementation of the IPF's proposals for action in terms of existing and new legislation, policies, programmes and processes. The other aspect relates to assessing discernible trends in the state of all types of forests based on national-level criteria and indicators.

4. The format for long-term monitoring, assessment and reporting can be expected to evolve in line with the development and implementation of criteria and indicators of sustainable forest management at the national level developed in the different regional and international initiatives. In due course, compatible sets of criteria and a core set of indicators might become a useful tool available to decision makers at all levels in the forest sector. Such an approach would also facilitate mutual recognition of regional and global initiatives in this respect. More immediately, the data generated by the Global Forest Resources Assessment, coordinated by FAO in cooperation with other relevant organizations and initiatives, will contribute to monitoring the state of all types of forests. The Forum encouraged FAO and other relevant organizations and initiatives to elaborate further elements of a reporting system, identifying and integrating the reporting demands of all forest-related processes and instruments. Furthermore, there should be effective feedback from international organizations to countries on key issues.

5. In order to make optimal use of existing reporting mechanisms, efforts must be made to streamline reporting structures so as to avoid duplication of efforts. There is considerable scope for cooperation and coordination among FAO, ITTO, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, UNEP and the Commission on Sustainable Development for the sharing of forest-related information and avoiding duplication in data collection. In particular, the efforts to harmonize methodologies, definitions and measure standards must be intensified. Furthermore, best use should be made of the activities of the Inter-secretariat Working Group on Forest Statistics.

6. The third session of the Forum should consider options for reporting on progress in the implementation of IPF proposals for action on the conservation, management and sustainable development of all types of forests. Monitoring of the progress in implementing the IPF proposals for action in the short term could be accomplished through the voluntary system of national reporting to the Commission on Sustainable Development, reflecting the Commission's multi-year programme of work, which will include forests in the year 2000, and as part of the comprehensive review of Agenda 21 in 2002, as well as the FAO survey that will be undertaken by FAO in 1998 on countries' progress in implementing national forest programmes. In this regard, the Forum also noted the suggestion of the Valdiva Group for initial voluntary exchange of information. The Forum encouraged countries to develop their own ways of organizing the monitoring of the implementation of IPF's proposals for action. This could include their implementation process and results, within the context of monitoring national forest programmes.

II. Matters left pending and other issues arising from the programme elements of the IPF process (category II)

A. Matters left pending on the need for financial resources (programme element II.a)

Co-Chairmen's summary of discussion

1. The participants noted the following, in moving towards the preparations for substantive discussion at the third session of the Forum:

(a) The issue of financial resources for sustainable forest management is closely linked with the broader discussion of the key role which financial resources and mechanisms play in the implementation of Agenda 21; participants underscored the importance of the conclusions on financial assistance contained in the report of IPF on its fourth session, as well as the conclusions on financial resources and mechanisms contained in the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, adopted by the General Assembly at its nineteenth special session,[7] and of the Forest Principles, in particular principle 10;

(b) The proposals for action of IPF on financial assistance to support sustainable forest management should be fully implemented;

(c) The participants considered the role of various funding sources — domestic, external, public and private — in achieving sustainable forest management, as well as the recent trends in financial flows from various sources to the forest sector;

(d) The participants felt, however, that reliable data on both public and private financial flows and investments in the forest sector were often difficult to obtain; some attributed this shortcoming both to complexities in design and to a wide range of programmes that benefit forests, as well as related difficulties in data collection and processing at the national and international levels;

(e) The issue of subsidies was addressed; it was stressed that subsidies that encourage unsustainable forestry and discourage investment in sustainable forest management should be avoided. Further work in this area was warranted and should be guided by the conclusions on subsidies contained in paragraph 85 of the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21;

(f) Concerns were expressed that ODA, which constitutes a major external source of funding for forestry in many developing countries, was decreasing. It was felt that more ODA could be channelled into the forest sector if an enabling environment was created. It was also suggested that, even within existing levels, more ODA could be channelled into the forest sector if sustainable forest management was given higher priority within national development strategies;

(g) The participants considered the situation of developing low forest cover countries, in particular those that are least developed countries, and stressed that special attention should be given to the need for international support for their afforestation for land rehabilitation, reforestation and restoration of degraded forests and for sustainable management of existing, often unique, forests programmes, which usually encounter difficulties in attracting international funding;

(h) The need to further examine the potential innovative financial mechanisms and schemes to mobilize resources for sustainable forest management was expressed; among the innovative mechanisms mentioned were schemes recognizing the contribution of forest

owners in providing such environmental services as carbon sequestration, preserving biological diversity and performing watershed functions; channelling proceeds from ecotourism towards forest conservation and sustainable forest management; and debt-for-nature swaps;

(i) The participants also stressed the importance of the private sector in financing sustainable forest management; it was suggested that private sector representatives be invited to participate in the next session of the Forum;

(j) Participants expressed a range of views regarding the desirability and practicality of establishing an international forest fund for financing activities related to management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests including the implementation of IPF proposals for action. In this regard, the need for a comprehensive assessment of the potential use of existing funds and financial mechanisms, both domestic and international, for financing sustainable forest management programmes was underscored.

2. As regards guidance for the Secretariat in preparing for the third session of the Forum, the Forum requested the Forum Secretariat to:

(a) Update and evaluate the existing data on public and private financial flows and investments from external sources, including ODA to the forest sector in developing countries as well as domestic funding to sustainable forest management in developing countries; this should take into account the contribution of local communities to sustainable forest management. It was suggested that countries provide data that would assist in synthesizing financial information on the forest sector;

(b) Synthesize the experience of countries with both traditional and innovative financial mechanisms in promoting sustainable forest management. Countries were invited to make available their experiences on innovative financial mechanisms;

(c) Cooperate with the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and report, as appropriate, on financial aspects related to the role of forests as a carbon sink;

(d) Examine and identify areas in developing low forest cover countries where assistance could be directed so as to best serve and enhance their afforestation for land rehabilitation, reforestation and restoration of degraded forests and for sustainable management of existing, often unique, forests programmes;

(e) Synthesize current evaluations of GEF and other international financial mechanisms as regards their potential for financing sustainable forest management and to facilitate consideration by the Forum of (i) desirability of further coordination of existing financial sources and mechanisms and (ii) the proposed international forest fund.

B. Matters left pending on trade and environment (programme element II.b)

[Preliminary conclusions

[1. The main objectives of mutually supportive trade and environmental policies [in relation to sustainable forest management/forest products and services] are for all countries [to have an opportunity to] to achieve that trade in forest products and services from sustainably managed forests, [and to use trade as an incentive to promote sustainable forest management]. As trade and environmental policies have their own objectives, there is a need

to make them mutually supportive towards achieving sustainable forest management. The needs of developing countries for social and economic development [and environmental protection] should be taken into account, in particular as regards poverty alleviation.[1]]

OR

[[Sustainable forest management] [The achievement of [conservation, management and sustainable development of all types of forests] [sustainable forest management]] can be effectively promoted through mutually supportive trade and environmental policies. As trade and environment policies have their own objectives, decision makers, including trade partners, should [ensure that] [implement] policies and actions [that] link trade of forest products and services and sustainable forest management [; thus] [, while] [Governments should also] [take into account the needs of developing countries for social and economic development [and environmental protection], in particular in regard to poverty alleviation.][2]]

OR

[The achievement of [conservation, management and sustainable development of all types of forests] [sustainable forest management] can effectively be promoted through mutually supportive trade and environment policies. [As trade and environment policies have their own objectives, decision makers, including trade partners, should implement policies and actions that contribute to achieving trade in wood and non-wood forest products and services from sustainably managed forests] [taking into account the needs of developing countries for social and economic development and environmental protection in particular in regards to poverty alleviation] [, in particular avoiding policies that have adverse impacts on the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests].]

2. The impacts that international trade in wood and non-wood forest products have on sustainable forest management can be both positive and negative and are largely influenced by accompanying environmental policies. These impacts may extend beyond what is suggested by the relatively small share of these products traded internationally. [Trade [can] add[s] value to the resource and thereby possibilities for sustainable forest management, but this positive impact may be constrained [when] [by lack of] market access in forest products [is difficult]. On the other hand, unsustainable [logging and] utilization can trigger various underlying causes of deforestation and forest degradation. [Due to] [To ensure] linkages between trade and environment, a holistic approach to sustainable forest management and trade is needed. [Domestic policies are also extremely important, and those that have an adverse impact on sustainable forest management should be avoided.]] OR [[Trade [liberalization] [adds value to the resource and] has the potential to improve efficiency, resource allocation **and** economic returns, contributing to poverty alleviation.] [Trade liberalization adds value to the resource and may promote economic development, contribute to poverty alleviation and reduce environmental degradation, provided that it is accompanied by sound environmental and social policies.] On the other hand, trade in forest products and services can trigger various underlying causes of deforestation and forest degradation. Due to uncertainty with regard to the effects of trade liberalization on forest products and services, a holistic approach is needed in order to further analyse linkages between forest-related trade and environment policies.]

3.[3] [Provided it be accompanied by sound environmental policies, trade liberalization,] [t]Trade liberalization [may] [can] promote economic development, contribute to poverty

[1] It was proposed that this last sentence be added as a last sentence of paragraph 3 of the present section.

[2] It was proposed that this last sentence be added as a last sentence of paragraph 3 of this section.

[3] To be considered together with and for possible inclusion in paragraph 2 of the present section.

alleviation [and reduce environmental degradation] and, provided that it is [complemented] [accompanied] by sound environmental [and social] policies, also [contribute to the reduction of] [reduce] environmental degradation. [Thus while pursuing the benefits of trade liberalization, Governments should [establish and implement appropriate] [[give] [ensure] attention to appropriate] environmental policies.]

4. [While the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations has yielded significant tariff reductions in forest products, [Governments' efforts should continue to reduce and eliminate these tariffs]. Focus should also be given to [subsidies and] non-tariff barriers to trade and their relationship with sustainable forest management.] [While the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations has yielded significant tariff reductions in forest products, Governments should continue their efforts to reduce and eliminate these tariffs. [However], special attention should [also] be given to remaining and emerging [non-tariff] barriers to trade of forest products and services, in particular their impact on sustainable forest management.] In this context, both economy-wide and forest sector effects of non-tariff measures [and subsidies] should be addressed in order to allow the realization of the potential benefits of trade liberalization. [The achievement of these benefits continues to be constrained by tariff escalation in some forest products importer countries, hampering the achievement of sustainable forest management of forest goods exporter countries, in particular developing countries.] The potential impact [, both positive and negative] of such trade regulations on sustainable forest management needs to be further analysed, [.] [especially in the case of developing countries [for whom trade policies are generally aimed] [aiming at] at promoting further processing of forest products as part of national policies to create employment and alleviate poverty.]

5. Trade measures [intended to promote sustainable forest management, including unilateral ones,] should not constitute a means of arbitrary or unjustifiable discrimination or a disguised restriction on international trade. [[Free] trade in forest products and services can support sustainable forest management [because] [where] it gives value to the forest in [producing] [exporting] countries. A better understanding by consumers in [consuming] [importing] countries of this potential relationship could help to [minimize] [promote responsible] consumer [discrimination against] [choice in] the use of forest products.] [Actions to restrict the use of forest products, including tropical timber, by subnational governments in some importing countries, which are depriving exporting countries of access to these market segments, should be reviewed with regard to their effectiveness as measures to promote sustainable forest management and consistency with international trade rules.]

6. The Forum [recognized] [confirmed] the potential role of voluntary certification of forest management and labelling of forest products (C & L) as [one of the] potential tools in promoting sustainable forest management and differentiating products [sourced] [derived] from sustainably managed forests in the market. [However, due to limited practical experience, conclusions on its effectiveness cannot yet be reached.] Inappropriate application of such schemes may, however [in some cases], lead to [unjustified] obstacles to market access [, *inter alia,*] [to producers who are at a disadvantage in complying with the requirements of obtaining certification]. [These can be compounded for medium-sized forest owners as well as those of developing countries.] [In particular,] [S] small and medium-sized forest owners and enterprises, [especially in] [as well as those of] developing countries, may find it excessively costly to implement C & L schemes. [The World Trade Organization agreements and, in particular, the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade and its Code of Good Practice for the Preparation, Adoption and Application of Standards[8] are useful references to ensure [that] [for] [the transparency [and non-discrimination of]] C & L schemes [do not become disguised barriers to trade].] [Proliferation of C & L schemes calls for further cooperative work towards achieving their international comparability and

equivalency while recognizing the diversity of national situations. While premature now, this work might eventually lead to mutual recognition between schemes.]

7. Forest products [and their substitutes] [could] [should] be adequately valued through full-cost internalization which in turn [would] influences [**influence**] competitiveness of these products. In this context, countries should analyse and implement, as appropriate, full-cost internalization strategies for forest products and their substitutes. [These issues need to be further analysed.]

8. [Available studies carried out on the relative [full life-cycle analysis of the environmental impacts] [[environmental] [compatibility] [imports]] of [both] wood and [non-wood] [alternative materials] [forest] products suggest that], [because [forests are a renewable resource,] [wood products may be] [[forest products] [they] [can be] [may be]] preferable to their substitutes. Further work on the full life-cycle [analysis and] environmental impacts of forest products and their substitutes is needed.]

9. Increased market transparency is essential in order to [, *inter alia*,] improve the market access of forest products and services [coming from sustainably managed forests]. In this regard the role of the private sector is vital but action is also needed by [countries] [Governments] and international organizations. [conventions and other regional organizations.]

10. [The nature and extent of illegal [harvesting and related] [trade] [activities] in wood and non-wood forest products, [including forest biological resources,] is a serious concern due to [loss or] damage to ecosystems, loss of biodiversity, lost revenue by Governments, forest owners [, indigenous people] and local communities, and distortion of markets for forest products. Action at [both] [the] international, regional and subregional [and] [or] national levels is required to [bring illegal harvesting and] [eliminate illegal] trade, [together with related corruption,] [under control]. [Addressing this issue is critical for the successful implementation of sustainable forest management, including assuring the livelihood of [forest dwellers] [indigenous people].]]

11. [Recent [experiences with] proposals [by] [within] the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) [members of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)] to regulate [the trade of certain timber species] [trade in endangered tree species]] [Recent proposals to include certain proposals in the appendices of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)] have given rise to concerns regarding the criteria applied for listing of tree species and the availability and reliability of data on individual tree species.

12. Recent changes in the markets for forest products, such as those caused by the Asian financial crisis, have raised concerns on the ability to continue the implementation of measures aimed at sustainable forest management [but have at the same time increased the need for it]. The long-term impacts of such unpredictable events on efforts to promote sustainable forest management need examination and monitoring. Such situations highlight the need to develop strategies for sustainable forest management with a long-term perspective so that the negative effects of short-term market changes can be minimized.

13. Developing countries with low forest cover and small island countries have special problems in developing their forest sectors to meet local needs for forest products and services. They depend, in many areas, on other countries to satisfy their needs for forest goods and services. Trade is [often] essential to meet such needs and international economic and trade policies may have serious impacts on the efforts of these countries to expand and rehabilitate their forest cover.

Preliminary proposals

14. The Forum reaffirmed the importance of fully implementing the proposals for action on trade and environment contained in the final report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests (E/CN.17/1997/12) as well as of making further progress in this programme element. In order to [facilitate] [expedite] implementation, the Forum:

(a) Supported continued efforts by [all countries and] the World Trade Organization [towards trade liberalization in such a way as to support sustainable forest management] [in accordance with existing international obligations and commitments,] to reduce [subsidies and] tariff and non-tariff barriers to trade in forest products and services [in a way that promotes sustainable forest management]; [[Urged] [Encouraged] [Called upon] countries to adopt and implement sound environmental policies complemented by trade liberalization in forest products and services;];

(b) Invited Governments and international organizations, including ITTO, FAO, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and other relevant bodies, taking into account work already under way in the World Trade Organization, through an open and transparent process, to examine (i) how trade [policies] [liberalization] can contribute to sustainable forest management [and combating deforestation], and how [they can avoid] possible adverse effects [can be avoided], (ii) [how to improve consumer information on products from sustainably managed forests,] [how consumer preference for products from sustainably managed forests can be used to promote sustainable forest management and] (iii) how various sustainable forest management practices can be recognized and rewarded by the market and (iv) how to [implement] [explore ways and means] [to move towards] full-cost internalization in [forest management and production] [both in forest products and in non-wood substitutes] [forest management, processing and utilization of forest products and their substitutes], and what [its] [the] implications are for trade of forest products and incentives for sustainable forest management;

(c) Encouraged countries to continue further dialogue and exchange of information and experience between the countries and stakeholders concerned on the development, [and] application [and impacts] of voluntary C & L schemes; and requested international organizations and other relevant bodies to carry out research, case studies, and assessment of the existing and emerging schemes, in order to better understand the potential role of these instruments in promoting sustainable forest management and [related] [forest products] trade, and [to help assure] that such schemes are not used as [disguised protection] [trade restrictive measures];

(d) [[Called upon Governments, private bodies] [Invited bodies] involved in voluntary certification and labelling in the forest sector, and other interested parties, after having accumulated sufficient experience, to explore the [issues of comparability and equivalency of various sustainable forest management standards,] [scope for mutual recognition procedures and approaches on the basis of equivalency at appropriately high levels of environmental protection,] taking into account differing environmental and developmental conditions. This work should build on the principles identified by IPF;]

(e) [Called upon Governments, international organizations and relevant bodies to identify and [assess] [discuss] the effectiveness of efforts to [control] [eliminate] illegal [harvesting] [trade] [and international trade in illegally harvested forest products,] and to share information and better coordinate their efforts in establishing [effective] [adequate] mechanisms to monitor, investigate and combat illegal [harvesting and related] trade;]

(f) Encouraged close cooperation between CITES and relevant international organizations, including ITTO and FAO, [in order to support CITES] in their [its] efforts to protect and improve the survival of all endangered species living in forests;

(g) Encouraged countries to support and safeguard the basic needs of people, including indigenous people who live in and near forests, while promoting trade in forest products, [environmental protection] and sustainable forest management;

(h) [Encouraged] [Requested developing] countries with low forest cover [and relevant international organizations] to identify which forest products and services are scarce in these countries and how to improve and sustain their supply, including [planted forests and] imports, and [in this context] urged [the] international [community, including relevant] organizations and [relevant] bodies[,] to [provide special assistance to] [assist in analysing how] these countries [in ensuring that they can] [can better] achieve sustainable forest management;

[(i) Encouraged countries to explore possible measures to achieve trade of forest products from sustainably managed forests.]]

C. Matters left pending on the transfer of environmentally sound technologies to support sustainable forest management (programme element II.c)

Preliminary conclusions

1. The Forum reiterated the importance of the Forest Principles and the relevance of decision 6/3 adopted by the Commission on Sustainable Development at its sixth session,[9] to the transfer of environmentally sound technologies in support of the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests. The Forum emphasized the strong links among sustainable forest management and transfer of technologies, capacity-building and institution-building, investment and financing from both public and private sources.

2. Although not every constraint to sustainable forest management can be alleviated by the transfer of technology, the Forum emphasized that improved access to and utilization of environmentally sound technologies have great potential for enhancing sustainable forest management. Indeed, policy environments and measures favourable to sustainable forest management and investment are as important as the availability and appropriate application of the technologies themselves.

[3. Efforts to enhance technology cooperation should recognize the important role of [the public and] the private sector in the development, transfer and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies, while stressing the responsibility of Governments, [both in developed and in developing countries] OR [particularly in developed countries], to develop an enabling policy, legal and institutional framework.]

4. National forest programmes [as described in the report of IPF on its fourth session (E/CN.17/1997/12, para. 17 (a))] should facilitate development and transfer of environmentally sound technologies in support of sustainable forest management and forest products processing. There is a need to further the participation of interested parties in forest-related technology development and to facilitate efficient adaptation and use of technologies and know-how, in accordance with national legislation, through partnerships among the public and private sectors, including research centres, universities and companies, and indigenous people, local communities and non-governmental organizations.

5. There is a wide range of available environmentally sound technologies, particularly in developed countries, that can support sustainable forest management. [The policies, actions and types of financing that are required for efficient selection, transfer, adaptation and use of these technologies vary depending on the type of technology, local conditions and intended use.] [Developed countries are required to transfer their environmentally sound technologies and corresponding know-how to developing countries on favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms, according to principle 11 of the Forest Principles.] They should be demand-driven and be consistent with national priorities [for sustainable forest management] OR [for management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests][and be reflected in national forest programmes].

6. Efforts for the comprehensive assessment of technology needs and suitability have been insufficient so far. Many countries, in particular developing countries, need to strengthen their capacities for assessment of the environmental soundness, economic sustainability and social impacts of technologies.

7. Developing low forest cover countries have technological needs related to, in particular, afforestation for land rehabilitation, reforestation and restoration of degraded forests and for sustainable management of existing, often unique, forests.

[8. [Some] [O] [o]pportunities do exist to finance and support North-South technology transfer through ODA. [Further] [O] [o]pportunities also exist to finance and support North-South [cooperation in] technology transfer through public and private partnerships, joint ventures and foreign direct investments]. [There is also an important role for international organizations in the dissemination and facilitation of transfer of existing knowledge.] [An efficient] OR [Effective] private sector involvement in North-South technology transfer [requires an appropriate enabling environment] OR [depends on mutual interests and an appropriate enabling environment, including promoting policies and regulations aimed at creating a favourable environment to attract foreign private investment and the removal of barriers to the provision of services]. [International, regional and interregional organizations have an important role to play in the field of forest-related technology transfer. Regional and interregional networks could contribute to a more effective and efficient use of already existing technologies.]]

9. South-South cooperation is complementary to North-South transfer of technology and know-how. There is potential for further strengthening of South-South transfer of technology and know-how. [Technologies generated in the South may [often] OR [sometimes] be more accessible, more applicable and less costly and have greater potential for diffusion than some technologies developed in the North.] Environmentally sound indigenous technologies, including traditional forest-related knowledge, should be given special attention and any transfer of such technologies or know-how has to be carried out with the consent of the holder and according to national legislation.

10. [The Forum emphasized the importance of technologies related to forest biological resources. In this respect, cooperation should be strengthened on ways and means of transferring and developing technologies for the sustainable management of forest biological resources, as they relate to the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests in collaboration with the Convention on Biological Diversity.]

11. To date, relatively little attention has been given to the need for increased technology and know-how diffusion to end-users through forest extension services. Some countries have, to that end, effective mechanisms and/or extension programmes, which have a significant potential to be emulated by a broader set of countries.

12. There is an urgent need for implementation of modern, appropriate environmentally sound wood energy technologies which would enable more efficient use of waste and by-products created by forest logging and wood processing , as well as wood harvested for fuelwood, for both industrial and household uses.

13. Focused attention should be given to gender mainstreaming related to capacity-building and technology transfer, particularly in the context of wood energy use, tree cultivation for household energy use, sustainable forest management and tenure and ownership of forests and lands designated for afforestation. Appropriate technologies for the use of wood as an energy source at the rural household level have a great potential to enhance the health and socio-economic status of women in many developing countries.

Preliminary proposals

14. The Forum stressed the importance of fully implementing IPF's proposals for action [, chapter 34 of Agenda 21, decisions adopted at **the nineteenth special session of the General Assembly** and recommendations at **the sixth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development**] on transfer of environmentally sound technologies. In order to [expedite] OR [further] their implementation, the Forum:

[(a) Urged the establishment of an environmentally sound technology transfer mechanism to enhance the technology transfer from the developed countries to developing countries;]

[(b)[4] Urged both developed and developing countries to develop an enabling policy, legal and institutional framework that encourages [public and] private sector investments in environmentally sound technologies for sustainable forest management and/or in line with the respective national forest programmes;]

[(c)[5] Urged countries [and relevant international organizations] to support the [establishment and/or strengthening of] OR [cooperation between] national [and] regional [and international] [institutions] OR [mechanisms/initiatives] to facilitate assessment [of needs for and sustainabilities], adaptation and transfer of forest-related environmentally sound technologies through [both] North-South [cooperation which should be complimented by] [and] South-South cooperation. [These institutions can act as clearing-house mechanisms for environmentally sound technologies;]]

(d) Urged [the developed] countries to recognize the importance of transfer of technologies [to the developing countries], including human and institutional capacity-building, as an integral part of the process of investment and development; and underscored the importance of combining technology transfer with training, education and institutional strengthening in order to promote effective use and broad dissemination of environmentally sound technologies;

(e) Urged countries and relevant international organizations to consider practical measures to promote the diffusion of environmentally sound technologies to end-users, particularly in local communities in developing countries, through the efficient use of extension services;

[4] It was suggested that the present subparagraph should be considered in conjunction with paragraph 3 in the present section.

[5] It was suggested that the present subparagraph be deleted, since it contains elements similar to those of paragraph 77 (c) in the report of IPF at its fourth session.

[(f) Urged countries, and relevant international organizations, among themselves, to improve coordination and cooperation in forest-related technical assistance, capacity-building and **environmentally sound technologies** transfer;]

OR

[(f) Urged countries and relevant organizations to improve coordination and cooperation in forest-related technical assistance and capacity-building, including forest fire prevention, management and control;]

OR

[(f) Urged countries, and relevant international organizations, among themselves, to improve coordination and cooperation in forest-related technical assistance, capacity-building, and transfer of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries in areas such as fighting and preventing forest fires, equipment technologies, equipment to combat fires, genetic engineering, wood processing and technology, rehabilitation/ restoration of degraded lands, product design and processing, low impact logging and transportation systems, non-wood product processing technology, fast screening of chemical molecule and gene sequencing of biological resources, pest and disease control, education and training technologies **and so on**;]

[(g)[6] Underscored the importance of assisting developing low forest cover countries in their efforts in respect of capacity-building that would facilitate the development and transfer of environmentally sound technologies required for their particular needs;]

[(h) Urged developed countries that are making use of the forest biodiversity of developing countries to share the results of the research therein and the benefits associated with the utilization of the forest biodiversity based on the application of the research in forest biological resources including the giving of due recognition to this source of biological resources utilization in patent applications for technologies in accordance with the Convention on Biological Diversity;]

OR

[(h)[7] Underscored the importance of sharing the benefits, as well as the results of the research on forest biological resources, in accordance with the provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity, as well as IPF's proposals for action;]

[(i) Encouraged countries to develop appropriate [national] mechanisms and/or measures to enable indigenous people, local communities and forest-dependent groups to realize the potential benefits of traditional forest-related knowledge in cooperation with the Convention on Biological Diversity, through the establishment and enforcement of intellectual property rights linked to this knowledge [including **the giving of** due recognition to the use of traditional forest-related knowledge in patent applications for technologies];]

[(j) Urged countries, in particular developed countries, to pursue concrete actions that would facilitate the transfer of modern, appropriate environmentally sound wood-based technologies for, and analyse the implications of, the use of wood, waste and by-products created by forest logging and wood processing as an energy source at the household, local and national levels, including in industry;]

[6] The resolution of the present subparagraph is subject to agreement on subparagraph 14 (d) above.

[7] Facilitator's proposed text.

[(k) Urged [the developed countries] to transfer and **[develop]** [also to contribute to the development of] technology [in developing countries in order to allow them] to make use of waste materials generated from wood and non-wood processes;]

(l) Called upon countries to undertake steps to ensure equal opportunities for women, in particular indigenous women and women in rural areas, to become beneficiaries of environmentally sound forest-related technologies, know-how and extension services;

(m) Urged countries to strengthen outreach programmes targeted at women in the areas of education, training and microcredit, related to community development programmes and household use of wood, wood lots for fuelwood and energy-efficient cooking technology;

(n) Urged countries and relevant international organizations to use data and information that are disaggregated by gender in sectoral surveys and studies used in the development of technologies for sustainable forest management policies and projects.

D. Other issues arising from the programme elements of the IPF process needing further clarification: underlying causes of deforestation; traditional forest-related knowledge; forest conservation and protected areas; and research priorities (programme element II.d (i))

Co-Chairmen's summary of discussion

The Forum underscored the importance of the implementation of all IPF's proposals for action relevant to these programme elements.

Underlying causes of deforestation and forest degradation

The Forum welcomed the initiative on international underlying causes of deforestation and forest degradation and their relationship to national causes, which includes the organization of consultation processes at the regional level, participation of indigenous people organizations, elaboration of case studies and organization of a Global Workshop to be held in San Jose, Costa Rica, 18–22 January 1999, organized by non-governmental organizations with the support of Costa Rica and UNEP.

1. Participants noted the following in moving towards the preparation for substantive discussion at the third session of the Forum:

(a) Policy coordination is needed both inside and outside the forest sector to ensure policy consistency to overcome major obstacles when addressing the underlying causes of deforestation and forest degradation;

(b) An analysis is needed of the mechanisms for a fair and equitable share of benefits including payments arising from the use of traditional technologies developed by indigenous people, forest owners and local communities for sustainable forest management;

(c) A problem-solving and solution-oriented approach should be applied in order to achieve concrete results in policy implementation;

(d) The results of the non-governmental organization-led initiative, taking place in Costa Rica, related to this programme element should further support the deliberations within the Forum as well as the outcome of the UNEP/CIFOR study.

2. Guidance for the Secretariat in preparation for the third session of the Forum:

(a) Include issues related to, *inter alia,* macroeconomic and rural development policies, poverty, market forces, trade constraints, forest fires and civil strife;

(b) Distinguish between underlying causes in forested countries and low forest cover countries;

(c) Examine the difficulties for implementation of policies to combat deforestation and forest degradation, including the financial cost and institutional and technological requirements of such policies, in particular in developing countries;

(d) Provide a comprehensive analysis and relevant proposals for enhancing international cooperation to address underlying causes of deforestation and forest degradation.

Traditional forest-related knowledge

3. Participants noted the following in moving towards the preparation for substantive discussion at the third session of the Forum:

(a) The decisions of the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity relevant to traditional forest-related knowledge, as they relate to the implementation of the IPF proposals for action in the promotion of sustainable forest management, taking into account their crucial role in the further development of this programme element;

(b) The importance of ensuring an adequate treatment and a coordinated development of actions regarding the traditional forest-related knowledge, both under the Convention on Biological Diversity as well as in the future sessions of the Forum, and between these two forums;

(c) The need for urgent and effective implementation of IPF proposals for action dealing with important aspects of traditional forest-related knowledge, taking into account the Convention on Biological Diversity process;

(d) Traditional forest-related knowledge in some areas of the world, such as Europe, has also been built up through generations of private forest owners and forest practice.

4. Guidance for the Secretariat in preparation for the third session of the Forum:

(a) Provide information regarding the process under the Convention on Biological Diversity on traditional forest-related knowledge;

(b) Take into account the work under the Convention on Biological Diversity in matters such as:

(i) Application and development of legal and other forms of protection for the knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of forest biological diversity;

(ii) Legislative, policy and administrative measures, good practices of conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, equitable sharing of its benefits including case studies on access to forest genetic resources, and benefit-sharing arising from the use of those genetic resources;

(iii) Consistency between intellectual property rights and relevant provisions of the Agreement on Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights[8] and the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Forest conservation and protected areas

The Forum welcomed the initiative announced by Brazil and the United States of America of holding an International Experts Meeting on Protected Forest Areas, to be held 15–19 March 1999, in San Juan, Puerto Rico, as well as the initiative of the Government of Australia for the development of an in-depth study on forest conservation and protected areas and an International Experts Workshop in Canberra, Australia, in September 1998.

5. Participants noted the following in moving towards the preparation for substantive discussion at the third session of the Forum:

(a) Forest conservation should be implemented in an ecosystem approach, both inside and outside protected areas;

(b) Protected forest areas contribute significantly in respect of determining ecological parameters for the management of all types of forests on a sustainable basis, and also provide social, cultural, environmental and economic benefits. Therefore, all these aspects should be taken into consideration;

(c) The results of the government-led initiatives related to this programme element should further support the deliberations within the Forum and the Convention on Biological Diversity.

6. Guidance for the Secretariat in preparation for the third session of the Forum:

(a) Take into account the implementation of the programme of work on forest biological diversity adopted in its decision IV/7 by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at its fourth meeting, held in Bratislava from 4 to 16 May 1998;

(b) Consider all kinds of protected areas and conservation measures with different management regimes, including those under government, private or community management administration, according to specific country characteristics;

(c) Consider the possible benefits of networking among specific forest protected areas and of the establishment of such an international network taking into account existing networks;

(d) Consider approaches to gaps analysis to identify shortcomings in existing networks;

(e) Consider the potential need for the adaptation of existing definitions of protected areas for the specific purposes of forest protected areas at international level;

(f) Address the issue of ecological corridors and buffer zones in relation to forest protected areas.

Forest research

The Forum welcomed the initiative taken by the Governments of Indonesia and Austria to conduct an International Expert Consultation on Research and Information Systems in Forestry (ICRIS), to be held in Gmunden, Austria, in September 1998, in collaboration with CIFOR, FAO and IUFRO.

7. Participants noted the following in moving towards the preparation for substantive discussion at the third session of the Forum:

(a) The need for improved coordination could be provided by networks for global forest-related research;

(b) Existing regional and global research networks and their potential in terms of data availability, capacity, objectives and possibilities for an effective linkage should be examined before new mechanisms and/or initiatives are established;

(c) The need for more institutionalized research on various aspects relating to all types of forests, including unique type of forests, both in forested countries and in low forest cover countries;

(d) Improved allocation of funds for priority forest research areas, including the support for research activities in developing countries;

(e) Adequate use of scientific and traditional knowledge to support sustainable management of forests, especially regarding the processes that regulate forest structure, renewal, diversity and productivity;

(f) Targeted, policy-relevant and practical research is essential, especially to support practitioners at the field level;

(g) The results of ICRIS, organized by the Governments of Indonesia and Austria, related to this programme element should further support the deliberations within the Forum.

8. Guidance for the Secretariat in preparation for the third session of the Forum:

Examine and provide proposals on institutions that could act as a focal point for undertaking a systematic review of globally relevant ongoing research on forests, and could guide a prioritization process to improve the information exchange among policy makers, forest practitioners and scientists.

E. Other issues arising from the programme elements of the IPF process needing further clarification: valuation of forest goods and services; economic instruments, tax policies and land tenure; future supply of and demand for wood products and non-wood forest products; and rehabilitation of forest cover (programme element II.d (ii))

Co-Chairmen's summary of discussion

Valuation of forest goods and services

1. Participants noted the following in moving towards the preparation for substantive discussion at the third session of the Forum:

(a) Forest valuation is one of many tools for decision-making in sustainable forest management. Further research should be promoted to develop forest valuation methodologies, which value and account for forest goods and services so as to achieve sustainable forest management. Valuation methodologies should strive to be innovative, simple, practical and cost-effective and to apply quantitative and qualitative approaches, taking into account traditional knowledge;

(b) While the principles of forest valuation are global, local environmental, social, cultural and economic characteristics of countries should, at the same time, be taken into account. Valuation should include values perceived by a variety of interested parties including local communities and indigenous people, with due consideration given to the role of women, and should include market as well as non-market values. Further development and application of forest valuation methodologies needs should take into consideration already existing data, the need for updated forest resources assessments and research results;

(c) Consideration of the costs and benefits of carbon sequestration by forests needs to follow closely the agreements reached by the parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The request by the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) of the Framework Convention for the Framework Convention secretariat to liaise with the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the secretariat of the Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, the Forum, FAO and other international bodies and organizations to ensure that information relevant to land-use change and forestry is available to the Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention (see decision 1/CP.3 of the Conference of the Parties,[10] para. 5 (a)) (agenda item 6 (b)) was welcomed in this regard.

2. Guidance for the Secretariat in preparation for the third session of the Forum:

Analyse and prepare specific proposals on the development of forest assessment and economic valuation methodology. This could include analysis and proposals on the promotion of the creation of market opportunities for non-timber forest products and services, including environmental and social services provided by forests, recognizing also the ecological, social and cultural values of forests. This should be supported by practical examples and case studies of the value of forest biological diversity and other non-wood forest products and services.

Economic instruments, tax policies and land tenure

3. Participants noted the following in moving towards the preparation for substantive discussion at the third session of the Forum:

(a) While it was stressed that matters related to land tenure fall within the competence of national Governments, it was suggested that decision-making on land allocation needs should include consideration of a wide range of factors and that countries should strive to address the role of indigenous people, local communities and women in the management of forest resources;

(b) Countries, according to their specific domestic conditions, are encouraged to undertake further analysis and implementation of their economic instruments and tax policies, as appropriate, in order to remove obstacles to sustainable forest management.

4. Guidance for the Secretariat in preparation for the third session of the Forum:

(a) Give more attention to the issues related to land tenure, as well as to the use of voluntary economic incentives to promote management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests;

(b) Undertake a comparative analysis of the effectiveness of alternative economic instruments and tax policies. The international organizations involved in this work should benefit from the knowledge already existing in countries, which, on the other hand, are encouraged to provide such information as available. This analysis should take into account current understanding, such as is reflected in the work of FAO on forest revenue systems;

(c) Include further analysis on the regulation and taxation of logging, including voluntary approaches and best management practices;

(d) Provide concrete examples of the impact of policies and action in other sectors such as agriculture and finance.

Future supply of and demand for wood products and non-wood forest products

5. Participants noted the following in moving towards the preparation for substantive discussion at the third session of the Forum:

(a) Improved quality and comparability of information about forest resources is needed in all countries. Every country needs to become part of the solution to this problem. Work carried out by international organizations is only as good as the information on which it is based. Information on non-timber forest products and services is particularly scarce. Enhanced international support is required for human resources and institutional capacity-building, and needed for the assessment of non-wood forest goods and services in developing countries;

(b) The general use of wood and non-wood forest products and services derived from sustainably managed forests should be encouraged. Supply and demand for alternative sources may be evaluated considering their overall environmental impact;

(c) Plantation forestry can play a positive role in easing the pressure on natural forests. In areas of slow growth, these effects should not, however, be overestimated;

(d) Possible implications of progress in sustainable forest management and the increase in protected areas for the supply of wood and non-wood forest products and services should be analysed.

6. Guidance for the Secretariat in preparation for the third session of the Forum:

Prepare a paper, derived from information and outlook studies, with a view to identifying policy implications at the national and international levels.

Monitoring and rehabilitating forest cover in environmentally critical areas

7. Participants noted the following in moving towards the preparation for substantive discussion at the third session of the Forum:

(a) Forests play an important role in combating desertification and land degradation. Forest plantations are of particular value as a means of restoration in areas where the original forests have disappeared and of reclamation of degraded land;

(b) Rehabilitation through tree plantations, where appropriate, should have clear objectives and involve relevant interested parties, in particular local communities and indigenous people, with due consideration to the role of women, and to local knowledge;

(c) Special attention is required to meeting the needs of developing countries with low forest cover. Forest rehabilitation can provide the basis for soil and water conservation; improved agriculture and food security, including agroforestry; contributions towards eradication of poverty, employment and rural development; restoration of wildlife habitats; and contributions to the conservation of indigenous species and unique forest ecosystems;

(d) Mountain areas, including watersheds, coastal areas and mangroves, as well as small islands deserve special attention.

8. Guidance for the secretariat in preparation for the third session of the Forum:

(a) Prepare a document, in consultation with the Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, that will enable the Forum at its third session to consider options for action based on practical, innovative real-life experiences with land rehabilitation in countries covering a wide range of environmental, social and economic conditions;

(b) Include in this analysis mountain areas, as well as mangrove forests and coastal zones.

F. Forest-related work of international and regional organizations and under existing instruments (programme element II.e (i) and II.e (ii))

Preliminary conclusions

1. The Forum emphasized that Governments, international organizations and all interested parties should take a holistic approach to forest matters, which recognizes the importance of social, economic and environmental values and functions of forests, and use their comparative advantages to cooperate in support of management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests.

2. The Forum noted that many of the IPF proposals for action are directed towards international organizations and instruments, and that there is significant unrealized potential for further strengthening and mobilizing the capacity of existing international and regional organizations and instruments to support and promote the goal of management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests. This can be achieved through the enhancement of their complementarities, the provision of financial resources, better coordination and facilitation of the policy dialogue, and greater coherence of action, including consistent policy guidance at the level of their governing bodies. This approach would help to focus collective action on overall priorities. There is a need to encourage the forging of partnerships with other international and regional organizations and instruments to implement the IPF proposals for action directed towards them.

3. The Forum recognized the informal, high-level Inter-Agency Task Force on Forests as a successful informal partnership in initiating and strengthening forest-related collaboration among organizations within and outside the United Nations in support of the IPF proposals for action. The Task Force requires strong support from each of its member organizations. The strengthening of the work of the Task Force will facilitate the implementation of the IPF proposals for action. The Task Force should continue to practise coordination on an informal basis with respect to the implementation of IPF proposals for action directed towards its member organizations.

4. The Forum acknowledged that in the context of the implementation of the IPF proposals for action, the real challenges ahead lie in further strengthening the existing partnerships among Task Force members and other international and regional organizations and instruments in respect of facilitating the establishment of new modalities of cooperation between Task Force members and other partners for making the best use of all the available forest-related institutional capabilities that exist at the regional and international levels. In this regard, through national forest programmes, special attention should be paid to supporting efforts of countries, in particular developing countries and countries with economies in transition, towards sustainable forest management.

5. The Forum underlined that the IPF proposals for action as a whole constitute an important integrated and multisectoral approach for the achievement of the sustainable forest management of all types of forests. Complementary objectives and approaches on forest-related issues for promoting work among institutions, organizations and instruments are crucial to improving efficiency and coordination, which should be built upon the IPF proposals for action. Future efforts by international organizations, multilateral institutions and instruments should be flexible in order to accommodate the existing and emerging needs as well as different levels of social and economic development of countries, in particular

developing countries. The Forum also encouraged them to provide for the effective participation of and collaboration with all interested parties.

6. The Forum recognized the utility of designing a comprehensive Directory of forest-related international and regional organizations including information regarding relevant global and regional conventions. The Directory could include, *inter alia*, the available institutional information concerning missions, mandates, organizational structures, programmes, activities, personnel and budget, as well as information on collaborative forest-related work and activities of organizations and institutions. The Directory should be updated on a regular basis. FAO, in cooperation with other member organizations of the Task Force, could have a leading role. Additional information about bilateral and multilateral forest-related activities, private sector and research institutions and selected publications could also be included, as provided by the parties involved in such activities. It is suggested that such a Directory be made accessible to all Governments and other interested parties in electronic form, for example, on the Internet.

7. The Forum emphasized that success of the efforts being undertaken by various United Nations bodies on forest-related issues depends on addressing the economic, social and environmental components of sustainable forest management in the context of sustainable development, in a balanced manner. It was also noted that the specific conditions of developing countries and countries with economies in transition in terms of financial, technical and technological capabilities require particular attention. Inter-agency coordination should pay special attention to integrating the needs of developing countries with low forest cover in relevant policies and programmes.

8. With respect to the Forum programme of work under category II.e, according to which it is to "Consider forest-related work of international and regional organizations. Further examine the forest-related work being carried out by international and regional organizations and under existing instruments in order to identify gaps and overlaps", the Forum noted that the Secretariat's documentation provided useful input to deliberations in the Forum regarding issues to be dealt with under category III.

9. The Forum noted that in future it will be necessary to examine practical approaches based on results expected to be achieved and to focus on experiences gained in the implementation of existing instruments and the work programmes of international and regional organizations oriented towards achieving sustainable forest management.

Preliminary proposals

10. The Forum called upon all interested parties, including the governing bodies of relevant international and regional organizations and instruments, to:

(a) Identify practical means for mobilizing their diverse strengths and capabilities to support country-level efforts in implementing the proposals for action adopted by IPF, taking into account the need to enhance the active participation of all parties concerned;

(b) Foster synergies among different international and regional organizations and instruments, and encourage their active participation in and contribution to international forest policy dialogue, with due consideration to the Forest Principles, chapter 11 of Agenda 21 and the IPF/Forum proposals for action;

(c) Clarify the respective roles and work to be carried out by international and regional organizations and instruments with respect to the forest-related programmes of action of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and its follow-up.

11. The Forum called upon Governments to:

(a) Utilize, as appropriate, the expertise provided by international and regional organizations and instruments in the formulation of their national forest programmes, in particular to better integrate cross-sectoral linkages and the social, economic and environmental aspects of sustainable forest management into national policies;

(b) Establish and strengthen, as appropriate, effective national arrangements to provide coordinated and effective guidance to multilateral organizations.

12. The Forum called upon the secretariats of the Task Force member organizations to:

(a) Inform their governing bodies about the progress and outcome of the IPF/Forum process so as to strengthen their forest-related activities and their inter-agency cooperation in this regard;

(b) Explore and develop the potential for institutional synergies with other partners, especially with regional development banks, regional commissions and other regional intergovernmental bodies, non-governmental organizations, other international organizations and private sector institutions;

(c) Cooperate towards developing a comprehensive Directory of forest-related international and regional organizations and instruments engaged in forest-related activities, including their mandates, missions, organizational structures, programmes, activities, personnel and budget, as well as information on collaborative forest-related work and activities of organizations and instruments. The Directory should be updated on a regular basis. FAO, in cooperation with other member organizations of the Task Force, could have a leading role in this task.

13. The Forum called upon Governments to provide guidance to the governing bodies of international and regional organizations and instruments, and to encourage non-governmental organizations to cooperate in:

(a) Implementing activities to increase public awareness of the direct and indirect benefits derived from forests, at national, subregional, regional and global levels;

(b) Facilitating inter-institutional consultation on cross-sectoral forest policies, policy reforms, and planning and programmes for sustainable forest management;

(c) Enhancing cost-effective data systems, to allow the preparation and the timely dissemination of information on progress in sustainable forest management.

14. The Forum called upon relevant international and regional organizations and instruments to consider, in their relevant policies and programmes, the needs and requirements of developing countries and countries with economies in transition, with special attention to low forest cover countries.

15. The Forum urged international and regional organizations and governing bodies of instruments to support forest programmes and to integrate forest-related aspects in programmes aimed at poverty alleviation, decreasing population pressures, promoting food security and promoting environmental awareness.

16. Consistent with the programme of work under element II.e, which is to "further examine the forest-related work being carried out by international and regional organizations and under existing instruments in order to identify gaps and overlaps", the Forum requested the Forum secretariat to provide to the Forum at its third session an in-depth analysis of the experiences with implementation, compliance and achievements of forest-related work under existing instruments and by international organizations, as well as an in-depth analysis of the contributions that could be made by regional and international voluntary initiatives, for

example, on criteria and indicators, to achieving sustainable forest management, as a way to contribute to building further consensus in future sessions. In this regard, the Forum secretariat was advised to seek assistance from secretariats of existing instruments and other appropriate sources. The analysis should include information on actions to support sustainable forest management as well as the extent of international cooperation, including levels of financial support. The analysis should also include:

(a) Coherence of forest-related objectives and policies among existing instruments and effectiveness in their implementation;

(b) The degree of effectiveness of international cooperation to support forest-related work;

(c) The nature and magnitude of demands by the existing instruments on national institutions as well as existing national capacities to respond to these demands;

(d) Action-oriented proposals to meet the specific needs and requirements of developing countries, in particular those with low forest cover;

(e) Establishment of ways and mechanisms to ensure inclusiveness.

III. International arrangements and mechanisms to promote the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests (category III)

Co-Chairmen's summary of discussions

1. The participants noted the following in moving towards the preparations for substantive discussion at the third session of the Forum:

(a) Effective international arrangements and mechanisms to promote the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests are of utmost importance. It is important to address their adequacy bearing in mind continuing trends such as the rates of deforestation and forest degradation, as well as the need to maintain and enhance the ability of forests and other wooded lands to meet the needs of present and future generations;

(b) Deliberations under this category should draw upon the Forest Principles, together with relevant provisions of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development[11] and Agenda 21, existing international and regional arrangements and mechanisms, as well as the proposals for action resulting from IPF, and build on experiences in the implementation of existing agreements. Furthermore, close links exist between matters discussed under category III and those under categories I and II of the programme of work of the Forum;

(c) Implementation of the Forum's mandate under this category requires that the initial emphasis in analysis and discussions at the early stage of the process be placed on identifying possible elements of international arrangements or mechanisms. This exercise should also take into account deliberations under categories I and II of the programme of work of the Forum, and relevant work currently under way in other forest-related voluntary processes, in particular the processes on criteria and indicators. In the course of the process, continued emphasis should be maintained on working towards a global consensus;

(d) The documentation of the secretariat on this category was noted. In addition to the possible areas of concern and elements suggested and identified in this documentation,

additional issues proposed for further consideration include underlying causes of deforestation and forest degradation; special needs of countries with low forest cover and fragile forest ecosystems; specific needs of communities dependent on forests to meet their subsistence needs; protected areas; forest fires; airborne pollution; participation of interested parties; information-sharing and public awareness; and international cooperation. It was further emphasized that finance, technology transfer, human resources and institutional capacity-building are of paramount importance in relation to the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests;

(e) At present, there is no global instrument that deals with all types of forests in a comprehensive and holistic way. Hence, reaching consensus and engaging in further action require a step-by-step approach, focused on substantive issues of international concern, conducted in a transparent and participatory manner, taking into account the views of all parties involved and without prejudging the outcome;

(f) The initiative sponsored by the Governments of Costa Rica and Canada in support of category III was noted. This initiative will seek to facilitate technical discussion on possible legally binding instruments on all types of forests and consider possible elements of such instruments.

2. Guidance for the secretariat in preparation for the third session of the Forum:

(a) Undertake an analysis with a view to clarifying the role, effectiveness and relevance of existing arrangements and mechanisms, both legally binding and others, in achieving the objectives of management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests. Also, relevant initiatives by non-governmental organizations, the private sector and voluntary processes, such as initiatives on criteria and indicators, should be taken into account. This analysis would include progress in and impediments to their implementation and compliance. This task should be undertaken in conjunction with the analysis requested under programme element II.e;

(b) Clarify the concepts, terminology and role of different types of legally binding and non-legally binding arrangements and mechanisms, as well as of voluntary processes such as initiatives on criteria and indicators;

(c) Take into consideration the comments made by participants during the second session of the Forum regarding the documentation of the secretariat on this category related to the possible elements and areas of concern;

(d) Take into consideration and analyse the outcomes of all initiatives, including the outcome of the first meeting of the initiative led by the Governments of Costa Rica and Canada;

(e) Further examine opportunities for implementing the Forum mandate under this category, in particular to facilitate the process with respect to building further consensus during the third and fourth sessions of the Forum.

IV. Other matters

1. At its 6th meeting, on 4 September 1998, the Forum heard a statement by the Director of the secretariat of the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests under this item.

2. At the same meeting, the representative of Brazil made a statement.

V. Provisional agenda for the third session of the Forum

1. At its 6th meeting, on 4 September 1998, the Forum had before it an informal paper containing the draft provisional agenda for its third session.

2. At the same meeting, following statements by the representatives of the United States of America and Switzerland, the Forum adopted the draft provisional agenda.

VI. Adoption of the report of the Forum on its second session

1. At its 6th meeting, on 4 September 1998, the Forum had before it the draft report on its second session (E/CN.17/IFF/1998/L.1), as well as a number of informal papers.

2. Before the adoption of the report, statements were made by the representatives of Canada, the United States of America, Brazil and the observer for Austria (on behalf of States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union).

3. At the same meeting, the Forum took note of the informal papers and adopted its report.

4. After the adoption of the report, statements were made by the representatives of Indonesia (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China), Switzerland, Japan and Gabon, as well as by the observers for Austria (on behalf of States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union) and Costa Rica.

VII. Organizational and other matters

A. Opening and duration of the session

1. The Intergovernmental Forum on Forests of the Commission on Sustainable Development held its second session from 24 August to 4 September 1998, in accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 1997/317 of 16 December 1997. The Forum held six meetings (1st to 6th meetings).

2. The session was opened by one of the Co-Chairmen, Mr. Bagher Asadi (Islamic Republic of Iran).

3. The Officer-in-Charge of the Division for Sustainable Development of the United Nations Secretariat made a statement on behalf of the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs.

B. Election of officers

4. At its 1st meeting, on 24 August, the Forum elected, by acclamation, as Vice-Chairman, Ms. Bibiana Vargas Morales (Colombia) who replaced Ms. Amalia Torres (Peru).

5. The Bureau of the Forum comprised the following officers:

Chairman:

Mr. Bagher Asadi (Islamic Republic of Iran)
Mr. Ilkka Ristimaki (Finland)

Vice-Chairmen:

Mr. Yevgeny Kuzmichev (Russian Federation)
Ms. Bibiana Vargas Morales (Colombia)
Mr. Charles Essonghe (Gabon)

6. At its 2nd meeting, on 28 August, the Forum agreed that, in addition to serving as Vice-Chairman, Ms. Bibiana Vargas Morales (Colombia) would also serve as Rapporteur.

C. Agenda and organization of work

7. At its 1st meeting, on 24 August, the Forum adopted its provisional agenda contained in document E/CN.17/IFF/1998/1, and approved its organization of work. The agenda was as follows:

1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
2. Promoting and facilitating the implementation of the proposals for action of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests and reviewing, monitoring and reporting on progress in the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests:
   (a) Promoting and facilitating implementation;
   (b) Monitoring progress in implementation.
3. Matters left pending and other issues arising from the programme elements of the IPF process:
   (a) Matters left pending on the need for financial resources;
   (b) Matters left pending on trade and environment;
   (c) Matters left pending on the transfer of environmentally sound technologies to support sustainable forest management;
   (d) Other issues arising from the programme elements of the IPF process needing further clarification;
   (e) Forest-related work of international and regional organizations.
4. International arrangements and mechanisms to promote the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests.
5. Other matters.
6. Provisional agenda for the third session of the Forum.
7. Adoption of the report of the Forum on its second session.

8. Also at the 1st meeting, the Forum agreed to establish two in-session working groups, each to be chaired by one of the Co-Chairmen.

D. Attendance

9. The session was attended by representatives of 37 States members of the Commission on Sustainable Development Observers for other States Members of the United Nations and for the European Community and representatives of organizations of the United Nations system, and secretariats of treaty bodies, as well as observers for intergovernmental , non-

governmental and other organizations also attended. A list of participants is contained in annex I.

E. Documentation

10. The documents before the Forum are listed in annex II.

Notes

[1] See United Nations Environment Programme, *Convention on Biological Diversity* (Environmental Law and Institution Programme Activity Centre), June 1992.

[2] A/AC.237/18 (Part II)/Add.1 and Corr.1, annex I.

[3] A/49/84/Add.2, annex, appendix II.

[4] See *1979 Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution and its Protocols* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.II.E.24).

[5] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

[6] Ibid., annex III.

[7] General Assembly resolution S/19–2, annex.

[8] See *Legal Instruments Embodying the Results of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations, done at Marrakesh on 15 April 1994* (GATT secretariat publication, Sales No. GATT/1994–7).

[9] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1998, Supplement No. 9* (E/1998/29), chap. I, sect. B, decision 6/3.

[10] FCCC/CP/1997/7/Add.1, chap. I, decision I/CP.3.

[11] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

Annex I

Attendance

Members

Algeria	Abderrahmane Merouane
Antigua and Barbuda	
Belgium	Jean-Marie Noirfalisse, Carl De Schepper, Olivier Milcamps, Simon Legrand
Benin	
Bolivia	Maria Victoria Montalvo
Brazil	Everton Vieira Vargas, Antonio Fernando Cruz de Mello, Maria Nazareth Farani Azevedo, Jose Carlos Carvalho, Antonio Carlos do Prado, Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias, Paulo Jose Prudente de Morais, Luiz Carlos Joels, Ivan Tomaselli
Bulgaria	Valentin Dontchev
Canada	Jacques Carette, David Drake, Martin Loken, Olivier Jalbert, Ken Maccartney, Denyse Rousseau, Denis Chouinard, Rosalie McConnell, Mike Fullerton, Ralph Roberts, Germain Paré, Clifford Wallis, David Barron, Frederick Johnson, Richard Baerg, Charlene Higgins
Central African Republic	
China	Su Ming, Zhang Xiaoan, Wang Zonglai, Zhou Guolin
Colombia	Amparo Oviedo Arbelaez, Bibiana Vargas Morales, Marria Elvira Posada
Côte d'Ivoire	Jean-Claude Anoh
Czech Republic	Františsek Urban, Milena Roudná
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Ri Thae Gun
Djibouti	
Egypt	Inayat Mohamed Abdelaziz
Finland	Birgitta Stenius-Mladenov, Anders Portin, Markku Aho, Aira Päivöke
France	Bernand Chevalier, Olivier Guerot, Olivier Hamel, Geneviève Verbrugge
Gabon	André Jules Madingou, Charles Essonghe, Athanase Boussengue
Germany	Ulrich Hoenisch, Maatthias Schwoerer-Boehning, Gabriela Bennemann, Hagen Frost, Udo Vollmer, Karsten Sach, Christa Wolf, Jurgen Wenderoth, Karl Keilen, Thomas Schneider, Christian Mersmann, Birgit Hagler, Martin Strittmatter

Guyana	Andrew Bishop
Hungary	
India	C. P. Oberai
Indonesia	Arizal Effendi, Toga Silitonga, Sugeng Rahardjo, Benny H. Sormin, Bagas Hapsoro, Mayerfas, Anita Lantu Luhulima
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Bagher Asadi, Mohammad Reza Hadji Karim Djabbari, Seyyed Jalaleddin Alavi Sabzevari
Ireland	
Japan	Akira Takamatsu, Mayu Hagiwara, Ichiro Nagame, Hikoji Matsunaga, Osamu Hashiramoto, Kenji Fujita, Elichi Shinjo, Hiroyuki Eguchi
Mauritania	
Mauritius	
Mexico	José Arjona, Enrique Ochoa, Edgar Cubero Gómez
Mozambique	
Netherlands	Menno van Genne, Ton van der Zon, Peter Schutz, Marco Braeken, Rob Velders
New Zealand	Don Wijewardana, John Goodman, Matthew Gubb
Nicaragua	
Niger	
Pakistan	Munir Akram, Kehkeshan Azhar
Panama	
Peru	Jorge Voto-Bernales, Rubén Espinoza, Gustavo Lauri
Philippines	Ma. Angelina M. Sta. Catalina
Poland	Jan Zajaczkowski, Krystyna Lundorff, Kazimierz Rykowski, Tomasz Gradzki
Portugal	Alvaro Branco Vasco, Conceição Ferreira, Manuela Domingues, Maria da Grace Rato, Manuel Loureiro, Antonio Botão
Russian Federation	E. P. Kuzmichev, A. M. Gudima, A. I. Pisaranko, V. M. Zimianine, E. G. Kulikova, I. P. Bulatny
Saudi Arabia	
Slovakia	
Spain	Raimundo Perez-Hernandez, Enrique Alonso, Pedro Molina, José Maria Solano
Sri Lanka	
Sudan	
Switzerland	Philippe Roch, Pierre Muhlemann, Monika Linn-Locher, Felix Hintermann, Theo Wiederkehr, Edgar Dorig, Falph Friedlander, Serge Pannatier

Thailand	Plodprasop Surasawadi, Apiwat Sretarugsa, Pravit Chittachumnonk, Atchara Wongsaengchan
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	David Bills, Mike Dudley, Libby Jones, Andrew Bennett, Richard Dewdney, John Hudson, Sheila McCabe, Penny Brooke, Scott Ghagan, John Carpenter, Pippa Bird
United States of America	Stephanie Caswell, Jan McAlpine, Diane Graham, Doug Kneeland, Franklin Moore, Mary Coulombe, Jay Berg, David DiGiovanna
Venezuela	Werner Corrales, Samuel Mendoza, Dulce Parra
Zimbabwe	Peter Gondo

States Members of the United Nations represented by observers

Argentina, Australia, Austria, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Italy, Malaysia, Mali, Morocco, Norway, Republic of Korea, Romania, Suriname, Sweden, Turkey, Uruguay

Entities represented by observers

European Community

United Nations

United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

Specialized agencies

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, World Bank, World Meteorological Organization, United Nations Industrial Development Organization

Secretariats of treaty bodies

Convention on Biological Diversity, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

Intergovernmental organizations

Agence de cooperation culturelle et technique, Centre for International Forestry Research, Commonwealth Secretariat

Non-governmental organizations

General consultative status with the Economic and Social Council	World Wide Fund for Nature
Special consultative status with the Council	Association of Third World Studies, Greenpeace International, International Federation of Building and Wood Workers, National Wildlife Federation, World Conservation Union (IUCN)
Roster or accredited to the Commission on Sustainable Development	Environmental Investigation Agency, UK, Friends of the Earth, International Academy of the Environment, International Institute for Environment and Development, International Institute for Sustainable Development, International Union of Forestry Research Organizations (IUFRO), International Wood Products Association, Rainforest Action Network, Sierra Club, Sobrevivencia, UNED-UK (United Nations Environment and Development-United Kingdom Committee), World Conservation Monitoring Centre

Annex II

List of documents before the Forum at its second session

The Forum had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on promoting and facilitating the implementation of the proposals for action of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests (E/CN.17/IFF/1998/2);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on matters left pending and other issues arising from the programme elements of the IPF process: trade and environment (E/CN.17/IFF/1998/3);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on matters left pending and other issues arising from the programme elements of the IPF process: transfer of environmentally sound technologies to support sustainable forest management (E/CN.17/IFF/1998/4);

(d) Report of the Secretary-General on matters left pending and other issues arising from the programme elements of the IPF process: forest-related work of international and regional organizations (E/CN.17/IFF/1998/5);

(e) Note by the Secretariat on monitoring progress in the implementation of the proposals for action of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests (E/CN.17/IFF/1998/6);

(f) Note by the Secretariat on matters left pending on the need for financial resources (E/CN.17/IFF/1998/7);

(g) Note by the Secretariat on matters left pending and other issues arising from the programme elements of the IPF process: valuation of forest goods and services; economic instruments, tax policies and land tenure; future supply of and demand for wood products and non-wood forest products; and rehabilitation of forest cover (E/CN.17/IFF/1998/8);

(h) Note by the Secretariat on international arrangements and mechanisms to promote the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests (E/CN.17/IFF/1998/9);

(i) Note by the Secretariat on matters left pending and other issues arising from the programme elements of the IPF process: underlying causes of deforestation; traditional forest-related knowledge; forest conservation and protected areas; and research priorities (E/CN.17/IFF/1998/10);

(j) Report of the Secretary-General on matters left pending and other issues arising from the programme elements of the IPF process: forest-related work under existing instruments (E/CN.17/IFF/1998/11);

(k) Letter dated 15 July from the Acting Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the report of the Government-led Initiative in Support of the United Nations Intergovernmental Forum on Forests entitled "Putting the IPF proposals for action into practice", held at Baden-Baden, Germany, from 29 June to 3 July 1998 (E/CN.17/IFF/1998/12).